



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,938	11/24/2003	Robert A. Chingon	03-1028	5260
32127	7590	08/28/2007		
VERIZON PATENT MANAGEMENT GROUP 1515 N. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 500 ARLINGTON, VA 22201-2909			EXAMINER ADDY, THJUAN KNOWLIN	
			ART UNIT 2614	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 08/28/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patents@VERIZON.COM

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/720,938

Applicant(s)

CHINGON ET AL.

Examiner

Thjuan K. Addy

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-49 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>07/20/04; 02/08/06; 06/14/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.
2. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.
3. The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.
4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because line 1 recites, "Methods and systems for screening a call are **disclosed**". The language should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Simpson (US 6,788,775).

6. In regards to claims 1, 10, 17, 26, 27, 28, 29, 38, 45, 46, 48, and 49, Simpson discloses a method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium for screening a call (See col. 5 lines 41-56), comprising: receiving information pertaining to a call (e.g., information pertaining to whether or not the call is from a “blocked” line or from an “unknown” line) to a user (See Fig. 1 and subscriber 80) from a calling party (See Fig. 1 and caller 20); determining whether a real-time call management function (e.g., “privacy manager” service) is enabled for the user (for example, a determination is made on whether or not the subscriber is subscribed to the privacy manager service); determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid (e.g., not blocked or from a known line) following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid (e.g., blocked or from an unknown line); providing a notification of the call to a device (See Fig. 1 and caller ID

Art Unit: 2614

box 81 or subscriber's line/telephone) associated with the user following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option (for example, the option may be to enter a passcode in order to override the privacy manager service); and initiating the call screening function when the user selects (e.g., subscribes to the privacy manager service) the call screening option (See col. 5-6 lines 64-10 and col. 11 lines 42-58).

7. In regards to claims 2, 18, and 30, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, comprising: accepting the call for the device based on a determination that the calling party number is valid (e.g., not blocked or from a known line) (See Fig. 8 [step 832], col. 11 lines 47-58, and col. 13 lines 15-19).

8. In regards to claims 3, 19, and 31, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, comprising: determining whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid based on a determination that the user has not responded to the notification after a predetermined period of time, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is invalid (See col. 11 lines 42-51).

9. In regards to claims 4, 11, 20, 32, and 39, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein the call screening function comprises: playing an announcement to the calling party (See col. 6 lines 3-6).

10. In regards to claims 5, 12, 21, 33, and 40, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein playing an announcement comprises playing a Special Instruction Tone (SIT) cadence and prompting the calling

party to record a name or enter an override code (e.g., passcode) (See col. 6 lines 3-10).

11. In regards to claims 6, 13, 22, 34, and 41, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein the call screening function further comprises: routing the call to the device (e.g. subscriber's line/telephone) associated with the user based on a determination that the calling party entered a valid override code (See col. 11-12 lines 66-4 and col. 13 lines 15-19).

12. In regards to claims 7, 14, 23, 35, and 42, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein the call screening function further comprises: ending the call based on the determination that the calling party does not record a name and does not enter a valid override code (See col. 12 lines 60-67).

13. In regards to claims 8, 15, 24, 36, and 43, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein the call screening function further comprises: placing a second call to the user at the device and playing a recording of the calling party when the calling party records a name (See col. 6 lines 3-6 col. 11-12 lines 66-4).

14. In regard to claims 9, 16, 25, 37, and 44, Simpson discloses the method, apparatus, and computer-readable medium, wherein the call screening function further comprises: disposing of the call to the user from the calling party based on a response to the second call by the user (See col. 12 lines 60-67).

15. In regards to claim 47, Simpson discloses a system for screening a call (See col. 5 lines 41-56), comprising: a voice network (See col. 3 lines 23-27 and col. 4 lines 3-8);

a data network (See col. 4 lines 8-17 and col. 4-5 lines 60-5; a plurality of devices (e.g., caller ID box 81 and subscriber's line/telephone) associated with a user; and a service center (See Fig. 1 and service circuit node [SCN] 32) operable to: receive information pertaining to a call (e.g., information pertaining to whether or not the call is from a "blocked" line or from an "unknown" line) to a user (e.g., See Fig. 1 and subscriber 80) from a calling party (See Fig. 1 and caller 20); determine whether a real-time call management function (e.g., "privacy manager" service) is enabled for the user (for example, a determination is made on whether or not the subscriber is subscribed to the privacy manager service); determine whether a calling party number associated with the calling party is valid (e.g., not blocked or from a known line) following a determination that the real-time call management function is not enabled, wherein a call screening function is performed when the calling party number is determined to be invalid (e.g., blocked or from an unknown line); provide a notification of the call to one of the plurality of devices (e.g., caller ID box 81 and subscriber's line/telephone) associated with the user via the data network following a determination that the real-time call management function is enabled, the notification including a user-selectable call screening option (for example, the option may be to enter a passcode in order to override the privacy manager service); and initiate the call screening function when the user selects (e.g., subscribes to the privacy manager service) the call screening option (See col. 5-6 lines 64-10 and col. 11 lines 42-58).


Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hill et al (US 6,542,596) teach a system and method for privacy management.

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thjuan K. Addy whose telephone number is (571) 272-7486. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00pm.

18. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ahmad Matar can be reached on (571) 272-7488. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

19. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Thjuan K. Addy
Patent Examiner
AU 2614